

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A system for providing data filtering from a cable modem termination system (CMTS) in a cable data network comprising:
the CMTS, wherein the CMTS comprises a first network interface, a second network interface, a data gateway agent, and wherein the CMTS is configured for obtaining a packet count from a packet counter, wherein the packet count is determined from at least one of a downstream packet count indicative of packets received via the first network interface and sent to a subscriber device via the second network interface and an upstream packet count indicative of the packets received from the subscriber device via the second network interface for transmission via the first network interface; and

a datastore accessible to the data gateway agent for storing a selected data transfer rule, wherein ~~a~~the selected data transfer rule comprises ~~packet content~~ URL filtering criteria selected by a subscriber, and

wherein the data gateway agent receives the packets via the first network interface prior to receipt of the packets by the packet counter, accesses the datastore, uses the URL filtering criteria to make a filtering determination with respect to the packet, wherein the filtering determination is selected from the group consisting of allowed and blocked~~e~~mpares a packet to the packet content criteria, and if the packet satisfies the packet content criteria of the data transfer rule is allowed, then forwards the packet to the packet counter for counting, and if the packet does not satisfy the packet content criteria is blocked of the data transfer rule then applies a corrective measure to the packet.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18, wherein the packet counter is located in the CMTS.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18, wherein the packet counter is located in the subscriber device.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein the corrective ~~measures~~are~~measure~~ is selected from the group consisting of discarding the packet before counting the

packet by the packet counter; sending the packet to the packet counter and reducing the packet count by one; and before counting the packet by the packet counter, transmitting to the subscriber a notification that the packet has been blocked according to the URL filtering criteria ~~does not satisfy the packet content criteria~~ and awaiting a selection by the subscriber whether to forward the packet or discard the packet.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein the ~~packet content criteria are filtering determination that the packet is allowed comprises comparing a URL of the packet to at least one component of an allowed URL, wherein the at least one component is selected from the group consisting of a name of a protocol required to access the resource, a domain name that identifies a source computer, and a file location descriptor, selected from the group consisting of a source address, a destination address, a URL, a port identifier, a transport protocol identifier, an application protocol identifier, and a keyword in a packet payload.~~

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18, wherein the CMTS further comprises a billing agent and wherein the billing agent is configured to receive a subscriber count trigger and to transmit a count message to the subscriber comprising a current packet count upon the occurrence of the subscriber count trigger.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the subscriber count trigger is selected from the group consisting of an end of billing cycle, a receipt of subscriber count request message, a subscriber count exceeding a subscriber selected trigger amount, and a subscriber count exceeding data over a cable carrier selected trigger amount.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for providing subscriber controlled data filtering from a cable modem termination system (CMTS) in cable data network comprising:
obtaining at the CMTS a packet count from a packet counter, wherein the packet count is determined from at least one of a downstream packet count indicative of packets received via the first network interface and sent to a subscriber device via the second network interface and an upstream packet count indicative of the packets received from the subscriber device via the second network interface for transmission via the first network interface; and
storing a selected data transfer rule in a datastore accessible to a data gateway agent component of a cable modem termination system, wherein a selected data transfer rule comprises ~~packet content criteria~~URL filtering criteria selected by a subscriber;

prior to receiving a packet at the packet counter, receiving a packet at the data gateway agent;

and

at the data gateway agent,

~~comparing the packet to the packet content criteria using the URL filtering criteria to make~~

~~a filtering determination with respect to the packet, wherein the filtering~~

~~determination is selected from the group consisting of allowed and blocked;~~

~~if the packet satisfies the packet content criteria, then forwarding the packet to the packet counter for counting if the packet is allowed; and~~

~~if the packet does not satisfy the packet content criteria, then applying a corrective measure to the packet if the packet is blocked.~~

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein obtaining at the CMTS a packet count from a packet counter comprises obtaining at the CMTS a packet count from a packet counter located in the CMTS.

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25, wherein obtaining at the CMTS a packet count from a packet counter comprises obtaining at the CMTS a packet count from a packet counter located in the subscriber device.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein applying a corrective measure to the packet comprises applying a corrective measure to the packet selected from the group consisting of discarding the packet before counting the packet by the packet counter; sending the packet to the packet counter and reducing the packet count by one; and before counting the packet by the packet counter, transmitting to the subscriber a notification that the packet ~~does not satisfy the packet content criteria~~ has been blocked according to the URL filtering criteria and awaiting a selection by the subscriber whether to forward the packet or discard the packet.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein ~~comparing the packet to the packet content criteria determining whether the packet is allowed according to the URL filtering criteria~~ comprises comparing the ~~a URL~~ of the packet to the packet content criteria ~~at least one component of an allowed URL~~, wherein the ~~at least one component~~ is selected from the group consisting of ~~a name of a protocol required to access the resource, a domain name that identifies a source computer, and a file location descriptor~~ a source address, a destination address, a URL, a port identifier, a transport protocol identifier, an application protocol identifier, and a keyword in a packet payload.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 further comprising:
receiving at a billing agent a subscriber count trigger; and
transmitting a count message to the subscriber comprising a current packet count upon the occurrence of the subscriber count trigger.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein receiving at a billing agent a subscriber count trigger comprises receiving at a billing agent a subscriber count trigger selected from the group consisting of an end of billing cycle, a receipt of subscriber count request message, a subscriber count exceeding a subscriber selected trigger amount, and a subscriber count exceeding data over a cable carrier selected trigger amount.

32. (New) The system of claim 18, wherein the filtering determination that the packet is blocked comprises comparing a URL of the packet to at least one component of a blocked URL, wherein the at least one component is selected from the group consisting of a name of a protocol required to access the resource, a domain name that identifies a source computer, and a file location descriptor.

33. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein determining whether the packet is blocked according to the URL filtering criteria comprises comparing a URL of the packet to at least one component of a blocked URL, wherein the at least one component is selected from the group consisting of a name of a protocol required to access the resource, a domain name that identifies a source computer, and a file location descriptor.

34. (New) The system of claim 18, wherein the URL filtering criteria comprise URL categories and wherein each URL category comprises at least one URL.

35. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the URL filtering criteria comprise URL categories and wherein each URL category comprises at least one URL.